

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A region data describing method for describing, over a plurality of frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a video, the region data describing method comprising:

extracting position data of a representative point of one of predetermined approximate figures approximating the region from the plurality of frames;

approximating a temporal trajectory of corresponding representative points of successive frames with one of predetermined functions of time; and

describing a first identifier indicating a figure type of the one of the predetermined approximate figures and a second identifier indicating a function type of the one of the predetermined functions as the region data.

Claim 2 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 1, further comprising describing information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames as the region data.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The region data describing method according to claim 2, further comprising describing information of the number of approximate figures forming the region of an arbitrary object as the region data.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The region data describing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

describing position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The region data describing method according to claim 1, wherein

a plurality of the representative points are included in a certain frame, and the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of said representative points in the certain frame and a plurality of said representative points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 7 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 1, further comprising describing related information related to the object or information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A region data generating apparatus for generating region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a plurality of frames of a video, the region data generating apparatus comprising:

an extracting circuit configured to extract position data of a representative point of one of predetermined approximate figures approximating the region from the plurality of frames;

an approximating circuit configured to approximate a temporal trajectory of corresponding representative points of successive frames with one of predetermined functions of time; and

a describing circuit configured to describe a first identifier indicating a figure type of the one of the predetermined approximate figures and a second identifier indicating a function type of the one of the predetermined functions as the region data.

Claim 9 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said describing circuit describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said describing circuit describes information of the number of approximate figures forming the region of an arbitrary object as the region data.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the describing circuit further describes position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

a plurality of the representative points are included in a certain frame, and the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of said representative points in the certain frame and a plurality of said representative points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 14 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said describing circuit describes related information related to the object or information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A storing medium storing a computer program for describing, over a plurality of frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a video, the computer program comprising:

a first program code of extracting position data of a representative point of one of predetermined approximate figures approximating the region from the plurality of frames;

a second program code of approximating a temporal trajectory of corresponding representative points of successive frames with one of predetermined functions of time; and

a third program code of describing a first identifier indicating a figure type of the one of the predetermined approximate figures and a second identifier indicating a type of the one of the predetermined functions as the region data.

Claim 16 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein said third program code describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The storing medium according to claim 16, wherein said third program code describes information of the number of approximate figures forming the region of an arbitrary object as the region data.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein the third program code further describes position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of the representative points are included in a certain frame, and said third program code describes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of said representative points in the certain frame and a plurality of said representative points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 21 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein said third program code describes related information related to the object or information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein the region data comprises identification information of the object, information specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, information related to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information, information of the number of the predetermined approximate figures, and approximate figure information which includes information of the type of the predetermined approximate figures, number information of the representative points, and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of the representative points which includes knot information, order information of the spline function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

Claim 23 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein the region data comprises identification information of the object, information specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, related information related to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information, and characteristic point information which includes information of the number of the characteristic point and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of the characteristic point which includes knot information, order information of the spline function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

Claims 24-46 (Canceled).

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the describing comprises describing information indicating whether or not the function is predetermined and information indicating an order of the function.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the describing circuit describes information indicating whether or not the function is predetermined and information indicating an order of the function.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein the third program code describes information indicating whether or not the function is predetermined and information indicating an order of the function.